

## King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries  
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

### REGENERATION

#### Lesson 3

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#### I. How important is the Doctrine of Regeneration?

The doctrine of regeneration is very important because there is so much false teaching that is contrary to the word of God concerning it. The Bible teaches plainly that there is no other way of becoming a Christian except through regeneration (the new birth). In fact, Bible language is plainer and more definite on this doctrine than on possibly any other.

As Nicodemus came to Jesus under the cover of darkness one night, our Lord told him that *"except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"* John 3: 3. Nicodemus was a good moral man and a ruler of the Jews. He was highly respected by everyone, but Jesus looked into the depths of his heart and saw his real need. He said to Nicodemus, *"Ye must be born again"* John 3:7.

#### II. What is Regeneration?

Regeneration is the direct act of God by which we are admitted into His family. It is a new birth, or a spiritual birth. People of every walk of life substitute other things for God's appointed means of entering into the kingdom of God. We shall look at two of these substitutes.

##### a. Regeneration is not baptism

There are those who teach that such passages as *"Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit"* John 3:5, and *"the washing of regeneration"* Titus 3:5 mean that baptism is an essential part of the new birth. It is evident, however, from the context of these passages and from other related passages that the reference to water and washing is figurative language meaning the human birth John 3:5 and the cleansing power of the word of God Titus 3:5, Other passages that lend to this interpretation are Ephesians 5; 26; John 15: 3.

The Holy Spirit uses the word of God in regeneration. This is clearly set forth in James 1:18, *Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

1 Pet 1:23 *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.* The Ethiopian eunuch said, *See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.* Acts 8:36-38

We see here that Philip baptized the Ethiopian **after he believed**. The thief on the cross was not baptized at all, but we know from Christ's words to him that he really experienced the new birth as he hung there, because Jesus said to him, *"To day shalt thou be with me in paradise"* Luke 23:43.

##### b. Regeneration is not reformation

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By reformation we mean turning over a new leaf and quitting certain sins to live a better life in our own strength. Regeneration is a supernatural act of God. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.* Ephesians 2:8-10

You will note that these verses teach that regeneration is not an evolutionary process or a gradual upward climb to God, but it is a miraculous work done by God. We are created in Christ Jesus the moment we believe.

### c. **Regeneration is a Spiritual quickening, a New Birth**

Regeneration is the impartation (free gift) of a new and divine life, a new creation, the production of a new thing. It is not a change in your old nature; it is the free gift of a new nature. This nature is given to you by God the moment you repent of your sin and turn to God for salvation. All who have *not* been born again are *"dead in trespasses and sins"* Ephesians 2:1; Ephesians 2:5; John 5:21; Ephesians 2:1,10. The word "quicken" means "to make alive.". It is God doing Genesis 1:26 over again: *"And God said. Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."* *"That...ye might be partakers of the divine nature"* II Peter 1:4. *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* II Corinthians 5; 17 Through regeneration we pass *"from death unto life."* *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."* John 5:24

### d. **Through Regeneration we receive a new nature - God's nature**

In regeneration we are made partakers of the divine nature, II Peter 1: 4. This divine nature is called *"the new man."* Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10.

The apostle Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit expressed his own experience this way *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."* Galatians 2: 20.

Note that Paul is speaking about two "I's". "The first "I" is the old nature which has its roots in him (Paul); the second "I" is the new nature which has its roots in righteousness (Jesus Christ). In fact, it is God Himself dwelling in the believer.

*"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him".* John 14:23 *"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:"* Colossians 1:27.

### e. **New desires are given to those who have been Born Again.**

Before the new birth, man's only interests are in the things of the flesh; but after this new life is received, there is a real appetite for spiritual things. A new governing power comes into a person's life when they are born again, and by this

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power they are able to become holy in experience, as we read in Acts, 16: 14; Ezekiel 36:26,27. See also: Romans 8:5; II Corinthians 5: 17.

### IV. Why is regeneration necessary?

#### a. **Regeneration is necessary because of man's sinful condition.**

The need of regeneration is universal and is as far reaching as sin and the human race. Every man is a sinner. See Romans 3:10 "*As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*" Romans 3:23 "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*" Jeremiah 17:9 "*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*" "*Except a man be born again, **he cannot see the kingdom of God***" John 3:3. To be not born again is to be dead, blind and lost, because there is no substitute for the new birth. Galatians 6:15. The absolute necessity of the new birth is clearly stated by our Lord: 1 John 5:12; John 3:3; Matthew 18:11. God created Adam, the first man, in His own image. That is, man differed from animals in that he was given a spirit with Genesis 2:7. God wanted to have fellowship with man whom He had created for His own glory. Man was the object of His affections. But to have fellowship, Adam must also show his love for God. Therefore, Adam was given a free will to express his love toward his Creator. If God had demanded Adam's love, Adam's affection would have been the result of fear and would not have been true love. He would be nothing more than a puppet in the hands of a mighty Creator., Adam's, love must be proven by a test. He was placed in a beautiful garden with freedom to eat of all the fruit, except from one tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This was the test Genesis 2: 17. Adam and Eve, our first parents, disobeyed God's command. Genesis 3:6 Because of Adam's disobedience, all men became sinners Romans 5: 19; Romans 5: 12.

That scene in the Garden of Eden is reenacted in the life of each one of us. We all come to the same cross roads, in life. **What is our decision?** One road is marked obedience and life; the other, disobedience and death. We automatically take the road to destruction, for "*that which is born of the flesh is flesh*" John 3:6, and it can never by any human process become anything else. The Bible says, "*Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.*" Jeremiah 13: 23. The Bible says "*So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*" Romans 8:8 "*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*" Romans 7:18 By our natural birth in the flesh our mind is darkened so that we cannot understand spiritual truth. "*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*" I Corinthians 2; 14.

#### b. **Regeneration is necessary because God is Holy and Righteous and cannot tolerate sin.**

"*The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.*" Psalms 145: 17. We are commanded to "*Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:*" Hebrews 12:14; Leviticus 20;26;

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Ezra 9;15.

If without holiness no man shall see God, and if we cannot attain this holiness by our own effort or any natural development, then the regeneration of our nature is an absolutely necessity. This change which makes it possible for us to appear holy before God takes place when we are born again.

### V. How is Regeneration accomplished?

#### a. Regeneration is the work of God.

Regeneration is a divine work and is not accomplished by our decision to be a better person, to quit certain sins, to go to church, or by any ceremony. John 1:13 The new birth is not received from our parents; we receive from them Adam's nature, the old man, the flesh, with all of its desires for evil. Nor do we receive the new birth from any preacher, priest, or evangelist. It is the work of God. James 1:18. Actually we have little more to do with the new birth than we did with our natural birth. Our only part is a decision to invite God to do the work of regeneration in us. When spiritual birth is accomplished, God becomes our Father.

#### 1. Your must be willing for God to do this work in you.

When man was created he was given the right to choose. This was part of God's plan so that man by his own free will could show his love for God the Father. On the other hand, man could reject God and choose his own way. This is what happened in the Garden of Eden when Eve ate of the forbidden tree Genesis 3, and gave to her husband. By this act of disobedience sin first entered the human race and man lost his spiritual life Genesis 2:17. But he never lost the right of choice. God has been seeking man and pursue him with cords of love. Genesis 3: 9 The prophet Isaiah expressed the longing of God the Father. Isaiah 45:22. All through the Bible we find the invitation presented clearly. In the very last chapter Revelation 22:17, it is stated in unmistakable language: " *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*" Nevertheless, God can never do the work of regeneration unless you are willing.

#### 2. You must believe the Word and the Message of the Gospel.

The gospel is the good news of what Jesus Christ has done for us. "*For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: I Corinthians 15:3,4*" It is the power of God Romans 1:16. "*But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*" John 20:31. Jesus said, in Luke 11:28. All must believe to be saved, and all who believe the gospel receive the "*righteousness of God*" Romans 3:22.

#### 3. There must be a personal acceptance of JESUS CHRIST.

"*As many as received him (Jesus Christ), to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name*" John 1:12. God does the work of regeneration, but you must invite Him to do it and believe that He will.

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Jesus explained the human side of regeneration to Nicodemus John 3:14 "*And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:*" When the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness after having sinned against God, the fiery serpents stung them, and many were dying Numbers 21:6. Moses asked God what to do about it, and God told him to place a brazen serpent upon a pole. Everyone who looked in faith to that serpent would be healed.

Jesus suffered, bled and died on Calvary's cross, then rose from the dead the third day. I hear Him say, *Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.* Isaiah 45:22. But a poor sinner says, "That is not for me; I am too far gone in sin." And the voice of Jesus comes to him, saying, *Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.* Isaiah 1:18. The poor sinner looks; he is saved; he is born again; he becomes a child of God. This is what happens when a sinner repents of his sins and looks in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ

Notes

<i>KJV</i>
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### REGENERATION

#### Lesson 3

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why is the doctrine of regeneration important?
2. What is regeneration?
3. What does the word "quicken" mean as used in John 5:21?
4. What do we receive through regeneration?
5. To whom are new desires given?
6. What did Paul teach us about the old nature?
7. Why is the new birth an absolute necessity?
8. What does the Word of God teach?
  - (a) That there is some good in everyone
  - (b) That only those who have committed some major crime (like murder) are classed as sinners and condemned by God
  - (c) That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God
9. How are we affected by the holiness and righteousness of God?
10. How is regeneration accomplished?
  - (a) Through baptism
  - (b) By such things as doing penance, attending religious services regularly, confessing our sins to a priest, and keeping the ten commandments
  - (c) By God as the Holy Spirit uses the Word of God **to** convict and cleanse all those who yield to Him
11. What is the human side of regeneration?
12. What must we do in order to experience the new birth?
13. Is it possible to know that you have been born again?

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14. Who can receive the new birth?
15. When did the new birth first become necessary?
16. Why is the study of the doctrine of regeneration important?
17. What is regeneration?
18. What are two things that people substitute for regeneration?
19. What is the new nature?
20. How do we receive it?
21. Why is the new birth necessary?
22. How does regeneration take place?
23. Is a personal acceptance of Jesus Christ necessary?



Scripture Memorization: Write out these verses on the back page  
John 3:3; 1 Pet 1:23; Galatians 2:20 (Must be in KJV)

### True /False

- The "washing of regeneration," as used in the Scripture, means that regeneration takes place at baptism.
- Regeneration is a gradual process that takes place as the person reads or hears the Word of God.
- The work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration is illustrated in the Scripture by the wind.
- When Paul spoke about "the new man" in Ephesians, he was referring to the new body that we shall receive at the first resurrection.
- According to God's Word, 'there is no substitute ' for the new birth, **regardless** of how logical it might seem.
- The new birth causes a change in man's attitude toward God.
- Since Christ died for all men and the new birth is a gift of God, all men are saved whether they accept Jesus or not.

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- Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden is very closely connected with man's need of the new birth.
- We receive a new nature when we are born again
- It is not necessary to believe the Bible to receive the new birth.

Any questions?